

Vashon Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update

September 2004

Construction Update



Costruction of treatment plant upgrades scheduled to begin this fall

To protect public health and water quality, construction of upgrades to the Vashon Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled to begin in late October or early November. The construction contract has been awarded to Hollinger Construction. Construction will take place next to the existing treatment plant on the south side of Southwest 171st Street, immediately northeast of the island's commercial area. The work will involve excavation and clearing, and construction of several new structures. All work will be done under approved permits and environmental controls.

Costruction of a marine outfall begins

Construction of the marine outfall extension has begun. The existing outfall will be extended 1,400 feet, well out of the range of geoduck beds in the area. The outfall will enable increased dilution and be better for the environment of the Puget Sound. Global Diving and Salvage is now fabricating the pieces of this long pipe at its location in Tacoma. The pipe will then be floated to the site by tug and sunk into place with support services from a barge. All the work will take place on the water, so there will be no disruption on the island. All work will be done under approved permits and environmental controls. The work should be complete by early November.

County helps obtain \$2.8 million no-interest loan

Bunker Trail and Beulah Park/Cove were identified as health hazard areas in 1988. Raw sewage was discharging onto the beaches at Bunker Trail and into a local stream at Beulah Park/Cove. The county advanced funds to the Vashon Sewer District to finance new wastewater facilities to eliminate these serious

health and environmental issues. At Bunker Trail, the sewer district built a lift station to transport wastewater to the treatment plant. The district also built an on-site system for Beulah Park/Cove. To reduce the burden on homeowners paying for the cost of these facilities, both the county and the sewer district have been looking for ways to lower the cost. Just last month, with help from the county, the district received a no-interest loan for \$2,832,852 from the state Department of Ecology. This loan refinances 78 percent of the remaining balance owed to King County with no interest. The sewer district is calculating how much this refinancing will reduce sewer bills for homeowners in these former health hazard areas.



Vashon citizens, sewer district commissioners and King County staff celebrate the receipt of the no-interest loan. From left to right are Sharon Nelson, Pete Letourneau, District 8 Councilmember Dow Constantine, Randy Robinson, Ed Murphy, Patti Daughtry, Christie True, Carol and Mark Salkind.

Project background

Vashon Sewer District contracted with King County in 1999 to treat the wastewater of its customers. Then, the system was experiencing many violations. King County's expertise in wastewater treatment and financing was needed to solve serious problems.

The county carried out many interim steps to improve the plant. Because of those fixes, the plant has not had a permit exception in a year, quite an accomplishment considering its record. While the existing plant is now

doing an adequate job, it is at capacity for the amount of incoming waste and flows. The existing plant also has no backup systems. If one piece of the system malfunctions, the quality of treatment will be jeopardized, and repairs will be extremely costly.

The new plant will increase capacity, add backup systems and move the marine outfall farther out in the Puget Sound. These improvements are needed to meet regulatory requirements and will protect human health and the environment.

During the past two years, King County held public meetings and asked for comments on the proposed architectural and landscape design and public art for the project. The county considered those comments in the final design. Nearly all necessary permits have been obtained, and construction will begin this fall.

Project schedule

Final design completed

Permitting--spring 2004

Construction starts--fall 2004

Complete construction--December 2005



Paint, grease, cat litter...how to get rid of what you don't want or need

The Vashon plant has been receiving lots of paint this summer. Busy homeowners and businesses are doing what they need to before winter sets in, but there is a better way to dispose of left-over paint than putting it down the drain. To find out how to get rid of plastics, paint and other stuff you don't want or need, check the Web at

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTd/community/oldstuff.htm>.

This site tells you what can go down toilets, sinks and other household drains, what should go in the garbage and things that should be disposed of in other safe and healthy ways. If you don't have access to the Web, call 206-296-8361 and request a chart.

For more information:

- Contact Jo Sullivan by phone at 206-296-8361 or e-mail at jo.sullivan@metrokc.gov for more information and answers to your questions and concerns.
- Call the 24-hour hotline at **206-205-9181**.
- Check the Web at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/vashon/>



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division



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Alternate formats available by calling
206-296-8361 (voice) or 711 (TTY).